(b) if so, what steps have been taken to suitably instruct the banks to give loans to SSIs on time?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The SSI entrepreneurs/Associations have been bringing to the notice of the Government the problems being faced by them in obtaining credit from the banks.

(b) With a view to provide loans in time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks that all loan applications upto Rs. 25,000 should be disposed of within two weeks and upto Rs. 5 lakh should be disposed of within a period of four weeks provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.

Contribution of SSIs

1068. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of the Small Scale Industries to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) the data for the last three years; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to initiate to ensure growth of this sector with a view to increase its share in GDP and create employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The estimated contribution of the Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country during the last three years (latest available) *i.e.* during 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 was 6.81%, 6.70% and 6.86%, respectively.

(c) Taking into consideration the higher potential for growth in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector in terms of output, employment and exports, the strategy for Tenth Plan is to strengthen the sector to enable it to remain competitive in market-led economy and generate additional jobs. For achieving these objectives, the SSI sector would be provided proper and timely inputs like:

1. Adequate credit/loans from financial institutions/banks.

2. Funds for technology upgradation and modernisation.

3. Adequate infrastructure facilities.

4. Modern testing facilities and quality certification laboratories.

5. Modern management practices and skill upgradation through advanced training facilities.

6. Marketing assistance.

7. Level playing field at par with the organized sector.

Closure of SSIs

1069. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Small Scale Industries have been closed down in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the persons who lost jobs as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have any plan to assist the Small Scale industries to improve their profitability; and

(e) what are the measures Government have proposed in the Tenth Five Year Plan Document?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, the number of sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2000, 2001 and 2002 is 304235, 249630 and 177336, respectively. The State-wise break up of sick SSI units for the last three years is given in the Statement (*See* below). The main reasons of sickness/closure are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies, etc.